

Dear colleagues,

my name is Valentina Tenedini, I teach at Istituzione scolastica Regina Maria Adelaide.

As a contributor to the website I would like to tell you about my experience as an EFL teacher and readytoteach USER.

(HOW IT ALL STARTED) I learnt about this website in January last year; the thing that impressed me the most during the conference, I am neither a Computer Assisted Learning fan, nor a big internet surfer -- let me get that straight out to you -- was the young age, the competence and the enthusiasm of the people involved. In only a few words and screenshots they managed to show the **novelty** and the **potential** of the website they had created: in it I saw a place where we could all share our teaching ideas and we could all benefit from.

**So we were invited to submit our ideas...** I had never thought somebody might be interested in learning what I do at school, - there's plenty of ideas in teacher's guides, books, magazines and the net.... Still - I thought to myself - the room was full of people that day - if each of us submitted even just one of their AUTHENTIC, DONE school project, the site would be thriving!...

**The material should be submitted in digital form...** But teachers, even those who, like me, have reluctantly come to accept the computer in their work, do have plenty of digital material in their PCs. That is how and why the night after the conference I visited the website, and out of **impulse** - and **curiosity** to see what some colleagues might think of my work - I submitted my first 2 contributions...

WHAT HAVE I GOT IN RETURN?

Visiting 'readytoteach' **I have learnt of sites for me and my students**, I might not have found by myself, - I never have enough time to browse around the net;

I have downloaded all of the contributions - pleased to see the work of many enthusiast and competent colleagues -- yet I have not copied any of them.

THE POTENTIAL OF THE WEBSITE – according to my experience - is the impulse it gave me to consider and reconsider WHAT I do at school and HOW I do it.

I must say I have become a much **more creative** teacher since I came into contact with 'readytoeach'. Not only have I created more digital lessons, to the benefit of my students (especially those with learning disorders), but I have been creating a **bank of material** which can be recycled and improved in the future...

## IS IT DIFFICULT TO CONTRIBUTE?

A lot of times I create digital files out of lessons I have almost improvised at school, and I manage to involve my students to do the PC job for me, and I reward them, so here comes an example.

This is the result of a lesson on how to write a film review done in one module with my 2<sup>nd</sup> year students this school year.

## *How to write a FILM REVIEW*

With the help of Classe II<sup>a</sup> a - scienze applicate - students

*“When writing a film review you should provide information about the following elements (in a logically organized sequence)”*

- **introduction** TITLE GENRE – DIRECTOR- ACTORS
- **body** *Then you should TELL THE PLOT SHORTLY*
- **Conclusion** *you should end giving your personal Comment by saying if you liked the film or not, why and who you would (would not) recommend it to*

FILM GENRES:(brainstorming activity 1)

Comedy, horror, action, science-fiction (sci-fi), fantasy , thriller/detective story biopic (biography picture) ,western, romantic comedy, war, disaster movies, prison movies, school drama, documentary, animated movies, drama, classic films, musical...

**USEFUL ADJECTIVES** (brainstorming activity 2):

*Un bel film = a good film; a very good film “molto bello”*

*A Brilliant film (NON brillante’; it’s a false friend!)*

*Film brillante = Comedy*

*Moving= commovente.*

*heart-rending = strappalacrime*

On a **LEARNING-BY-DOING** principle the class is led to write a composition

- *the students suggested the sentences using a film which had been recently seen at school,*
- *the teacher guided the development, corrected the grammar and provided vocabulary when necessary.*

- INTRODUCTION :  
The film I'd like to recommend is *Bend it like Beckham* /  
The latest film I have seen is...

(you may go on by resorting to the following sentences: )

It tells the story of a young girl who likes playing soccer./ It tells about...

It is set in today's Britain

It is based on... a true story , / on the book ... , /on the play....

it is the

INTRODUCTION      ***The film I'd like to recommend*** is Bend it like  
Beckham. *It is set in today's Britain.*

Summarizing the plot      It tells the story of a young girl who likes playing  
soccer. The protagonists are Gess and her family.  
The story revolves around an Indian family living in  
Britain; the main character is a young footballer who  
makes friend with Jules, starring Keira Knightley.  
Gess's family disapproves of her hobby and friends ,  
while they're busy organising their older daughter's  
wedding. So the protagonist **is torn** between family  
obligations and personal aspirations.  
At the end of the story the family agrees **to let** Gess  
go abroad to play soccer with a professional team  
while everybody can see each other's point of view  
and feelings.

CONCLUSION      I really liked /enjoyed the film because it deals with  
interesting themes for teenagers : such as friendship,  
love, family relationships and sport.  
I would recommend it to anybody especially students  
and families

(154 words)

Alternative CONCLUSION: (in case you did not like the film)

I did not like the film very much because ..... (e.g.) *it was predictable / slow/ the actors were not very good / the film was over estimated?*

Useful sentences to RECOMMEND A FILM:

*Bend it like Beckham* is a film you really must see

It's a film you can't miss

"I would recommend this film to people who like (for example) romantic comedies

*Alternatively* "I would not recommend to"

(e.g.) people who don't like this genre

a young public etc...

FOLLOW UP:

the class is asked to prepare a *review of their favourite film*, the teacher 'volunteers' one of the students to send via email the notes from the class, the notes are revised by the teacher who then shares the finished product with the whole class, the cooperative student gets a 'bonus'; the teacher gets new material for her filebank....

I would just like to finish off by saying that we all know YOU CANNOT BE A TEACHER, UNLESS YOU **WORK HARD** AND ARE **MOTIVATED**. LOVING WHAT WE DO IS PROBABLY THE ONLY THING LEFT TO SUPPORT US NOWADAYS.

I may not know all of my colleagues, but I am sure we all do interesting things on a regular basis during class time, I think we are just too busy to consider our products or ideas worth sharing...

Seeing my file you have probably thought:--- No big deal - I do those things as well!

Well, that is exactly the point I have tried to make: If I could do that--- **then why can't you?**

Best wishes

*Valentina Tenedini*